

EAST BUDLEIGH with BICTON PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Judith Venning
Clerk to the Council
01395 489155
clerk@eastbudleigh-pc.gov.uk

1 Chichester Way
East Budleigh
Devon
EX9 7ER

Minutes of the East Budleigh with Bicton Parish Council Meeting AGM held on Tuesday 25th May 2021 in the Village Hall

RISK ASSESSMENT BY CLERK (COVID MEASURES) – All correct

PRESENT: Councillors D. Wensley (Chair), J. Tresidder, J. Carter, F. Ward & M. Smith

APOLOGIES: District Councillors A. Dent, T. Wright & P. Jarvis, County Councillor C. Channon, Cllr. H. Houston & Cllr. K. Quant

The Chairman stood down and Councillors stood down from their committees.

Councillor Derek Wensley was unanimously voted in as Chair for another year. Councillor John Tresidder was voted in as Vice-chair.

It was noted that following the resignations of Councillors Mike Walters and John Shaw, there are now three vacancies on the Council. Councillor Wensley thanked them for their contributions. He particularly thanked Councillor Walters for his work on the Emergency Resilience and his initiatives during the Pandemic.

Councillors were appointed to the following committees and working parties:

Planning – Cllr. Wensley
Parish Paths (P3) – Jon Roseway
Drake's School – Cllr. Ward & Cllr. Houston
East Budleigh Village Hall – Cllr. Tresidder
Police Committee – Cllr. Quant
Yettington Matters – Cllr. Quant
Recreation Ground & Monitor of Dog Owners – Cllr. Smith
Greening of the Parish – Cllr. Ward
Cricket Club, LORP & Kersbrook – Cllr. Carter
Collaboration Group – Cllr. Wensley & the Clerk
Resilience Co-ordinator – Cllr. Tresidder assisted by Cllr. Quant
War Memorial – Cllr. Tresidder
Climate Emergency – represented by Cllr. Tresidder
Traffic Matters – Cllr. Houston

The **MINUTES** of the Virtual Council Meeting held on 27th April 2021 were approved.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were none.

MATTERS ARISING – None

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT – Councillor Channon thanked the Parish Council for their hard work during the pandemic:- “You have sought out the vulnerable, kept the shop open, held virtual Parish meetings, and even made masks for a care home” Drakes Schools has continued to teach and has 95% attendance. Team Devon worked with all sectors to support residents. Devon CC organised food vouchers for 15,000 young people, invested in skills and training, supporting Bicton and Exeter Colleges and more recently, rescued the Flybe Academy. Improvements have been made to the roads and fast Broadband is on the way. The Devon carbon footprint has been reduced by 50%. LED lights have been fitted to street-lamps and East Budleigh Parish Council has planted more trees. Cllr. Channon has become a member of the Advisory Board for the Budleigh Hospital Health and Well-being Hub, who co-ordinated volunteers during the pandemic. A medical day unit is soon to be opened. See Councillor Channon’s full report for further details.

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ REPORT –

Some of the major issues tackled have been:

- Distributing over £60 million of government funds to local businesses
- Managing Universal Credit which has increased by 40%
- Manning a central Hub to direct callers to appropriate services
- Maintaining the kerbside recycling and waste collections against a background of sickness and increased loads

The Lower Otter Restoration Project is going ahead and will take a year or more to complete. District Councillors have worked to alleviate the difficulties facing many businesses as a result of Covid. Electric Charging points will soon be placed across the district. See the District Councillors’ full report for further details.

The Accounts for 2020/21 have been completed and will now go to the Internal Auditor.

ANNUAL REPORT BY THE CHAIR – The Annual Meeting has been put on hold, due to difficulties in meeting safely. Covid 19 caused many changes to the way the Parish Council operated. Meetings were moved to online, and a task force of volunteers was engaged by Cllr Walters and the Clerk with assistance from others, for the purpose of helping parishioners. Cllr. Tresidder assisted with getting the Shop organised to take orders by phone and arrange deliveries. Some grant funds were obtained. A collaboration group was formed to improve communications between the different local groups. A Nature Trail was established by Cllr. Ward and the toilets were refurbished. The Clerk posts an article on the Parish News every month and places useful information plus all our reports on the Parish Council website. This has helped with transparency and keeping residents informed. See the full report attached.

MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED

Review of Standing Orders, Risk Register, Code of Conduct & Financial Regulations – Cllr. Shaw has resigned, so the Clerk will make the adjustment that were agreed in April.

Ring and Ride annual donation of £150.00 – agreed unanimously

Rents for Football Club and Tennis Club – Agreed to keep these at the same level for another year. Councillors noted that the Tennis Courts were being kept in particularly good order.

Community Pub - Councillor Wensley presented a report and asked the Parish Council if they were willing to support the attempt to purchase the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn as a community pub. All were in favour of assisting the community to keep this asset, which features as an item of importance in the Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed to make a grant of £500.00 immediately (from the precept) and to make a further £1000.00 loan (from our General Reserves) once negotiations for purchase have taken place.

Drakes School has presented a letter asking for the Council's approval to reduce the starting age at Drake's School to 3 years old. All were in favour.

REPORTS

The Clerk had spoken to Otterton Parish Council, but their Landsman was not willing to assist in our area. She confirmed there are two companies that have been sanctioned by Devon County Council to bring fast fibre broadband to the village – Jurassic Fibre and Airband. She reported on behalf of Cllr. Houston that Devon County Council will not sanction the fitting of a second gate in the corridor leading to the recreation ground. Councillors decided a notice should be placed to encourage people with dogs to keep them in view. The Clerk will ask Cllr. Houston to investigate.

The clerk reported that some projects were being held up because Sulina at EDDC has been ill. Council agreed that the costs for improving the VIP room and phone box could be met from the S137 fund for the time being, to enable work to go ahead.

Correspondence: Christine Hadley sent an email suggesting that the number of notices on The Pound be reduced, to keep it tidy. It was agreed that little could be done until the barriers have been removed, but consideration could then be given to re-siting or adjusting the signage. Councillor Tresidder will deal with this at the appropriate time.

Yettington: Councillor Quant sent in a report. He has priced for the memorial bench for Peter Barnard. The Clerk will apply to Sulina of EDDC to use some of the remaining S106 funds. Mrs. Barnard will supply the memorial plaque and the bench will be sited in the Yettington Hall grounds. The phone box is still awaiting repair. Residents are interested in siting a defibrillator within it; funding will need to be found for this. The Clerk will ask Sulina of EDDC if we can use Capital for this purchase.

Recreation & Dog Owners: Councillor Smith had nothing new to report. Councillor Tresidder assists with checking the condition of the recreation ground.

Parish Paths Partnership (P3) – Jon Roseway continues to trim footpaths and make repairs.

Councillor Tresidder submitted a report. He recommended the Parish Council sign up to the **Climate Emergency** statement. All agreed. He will sign up on the Council's behalf. The Council approved expenditure of plants for the **War Memorial** site. The **Shop** has continued to operate throughout the pandemic.

Councillor Ward submitted a report. She advised that planting on the layby be held for the future as it is a complicated matter due to Health & Safety issues and ownership. Councillor Carter said

he and Councillor Quant had checked out areas in Kersbrook, particularly in respect of overhanging branches, Cllr. Ward will take the donation of Nature Kits and bird boxes to Drake's school after half term.

Councillor Carter said work on the LORP was on hold due to "nesting birds". Work on the Cricket Club is proceeding and should be ready by 2024. He reported that Otterton had their Neighbourhood Plan accepted.

Planning: Councillors viewed the planning application for **Ref 21/0880/FUL May House, Dalditch**. All approved the recommendation of Cllr. Wensley –
"The proposed second storey extension to the annexe, with living room and kitchenette, would enable the annexe to become self-contained accommodation. Should EDDC be minded to approve the application then a condition should be imposed such that the annexe should not be occupied at any time other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of the main house and shall not be used as a separate dwelling or for any commercial, industrial, or business purpose. The annexe is in an unsustainable location and within 400m of the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths. As the property is directly adjacent to the Pebblebed Heaths, additional independent accommodation is likely to lead to the deterioration of habitats and loss or disturbance of wildlife within the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Site of Special Scientific Interest, East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Special Area of Conservation and East Devon Heaths Special Protection Area arising from the increased residential occupancy of the building and increased recreational use. These effects cannot be avoided or mitigated other than by avoiding residential development. As such the proposed development is contrary to Strategy 47 (Nature Conservation and Geology) of the Local Plan 2013-2031 and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010."

Councillors viewed the planning application of **21/1194/FUL Wynards House**. All were in favour of the application.

Councillors viewed the planning application of **21/0099/VAR The Pound**. The Parish Council objected to the plans "That the Parish Council original comments of 11th February 2021 remain largely valid except:

The additional reports provided have given a level of re-assurance, but the reports dealing with light spillage onto the bat barn are perplexing. With the addition of four extra rooflights it is illogical that the maximum light level is now given as 0.53 when it was 0.9 previously? It would require a specialist to verify these calculations. In any event, the upward direction of these additional rooflights would have an adverse effect on bat flight paths.

The Parish Council previously objected to the increased size from 3 to 4 bedrooms. In fact, with an additional spare room and WC as well as an additional 'work from home room', the spare room is effectively a 5th bedroom, which totally contravenes the Neighbourhood Plan and the original bell cornwall report as stated in the previous comments of 11th February.

The Clerk presented bills for payment. **All were approved.**

Councillors approved the **Financial Records for April 2021**.

Any Other Business: None

There were no Topics raised by Councillors or Members of the Public.

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm.

Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 29th June 2021 in the Village Hall